United Nations A/69/191

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 August 2014

Original: English

Sixty-ninth session

# Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the sixty-ninth session

## Seventieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War

### Letter dated 13 August 2014 from the representatives of Armenia, Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to request, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Seventieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War" to be considered by the General Assembly in plenary session.

In conformity with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory note (annex I) and a draft resolution (annex II) are attached to this letter.

We should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Zohrab **Mnatsakanyan**
Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Andrei **Dapkiunas**
Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations

(*Signed*) **Liu** Jieyi
Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Kairat **Abdrakhmanov**
Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations

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(*Signed*) Nuran **Niyazaliev**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Mahmadamin **Mahmadaminov**
Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations

# Annex I

## Explanatory note

In 2015 the States Members of the United Nations will solemnly mark the seventieth anniversary of the victory in the Second World War. This war, unprecedented by its scale and ferocity, turned into a great tragedy for the peoples of Europe, Asia and the world. A threat to the very basic principles of civilization was averted at the cost of colossal joint efforts and grave losses.

Through the suffering and death of millions of people, the world community came to realize the indispensability of a system of collective security and the necessity of establishing reliable machinery to ensure international peace.

The burning desire to spare humanity forever from the miseries of war inspired States to adopt a reliable mechanism for maintaining international peace and security: the United Nations. The objectives set for the Organization when it was established are still relevant. Among them are strengthening of an equitable world order based on the principles of humanism and mutually beneficial cooperation, effective maintenance of international peace and security, and promotion of sustained development in the political, socioeconomic and other spheres.

Today we need to remember the lessons of the Second World War and to work to promote the preservation of the historical memory of peoples. The perception of the victory won in 1945 as a common value for all of humanity is essential for the consolidation of the international community to address dangerous modern challenges and threats.

The memory of the victory over fascism is also relevant in terms of preventing attempts to revise the results of the Second World War and the conclusions of the Nuremberg Tribunal and the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, as well as in light of the objectives of the United Nations to oppose crimes based on race, nationality and ethnic origin and the spread of ideas of intolerance and related contemporary forms of racial discrimination.

It is in the direct interest of humanity to further strengthen the role and effectiveness of the United Nations as the central element in the collective security system designed to put into practice the high goal proclaimed in the United Nations Charter: "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

Consideration of this agenda item could lead to the adoption by the General Assembly of a resolution on the seventieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War. This would make it possible to hold a special solemn meeting of the Assembly in memory of all victims of the war.

# Annex II

## Draft resolution on the seventieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolution 59/26 of 22 November 2004, in which it, inter alia, declared 8-9 May as a time of remembrance and reconciliation, while recognizing that Member States may have individual dates of victory, liberation and commemoration,

*Recalling* that 2015 will mark the seventieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, a war which brought untold sorrow to mankind, particularly in Asia and Europe,

*Stressing* that this historic event established the conditions for the creation of the United Nations, designed to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

*Calling upon* the States Members of the United Nations to unite their efforts in dealing with new challenges and threats, with the United Nations playing a central role, and to make every effort to settle all disputes by peaceful means in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and in such a manner that international peace and security are not endangered,

*Underlining* the progress made since the end of the Second World War in overcoming its legacy and towards reconciliation, international and regional cooperation and the promotion of democratic values, human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular through the United Nations, and the establishment of regional organizations and other appropriate frameworks,

1. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and individuals to observe these days in an appropriate manner to pay tribute to all victims of the Second World War;

2. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to hold a special solemn meeting of the Assembly in the second week of May 2015 in commemoration of all victims of the war;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and organizations of the United Nations system and to take measures necessary for its implementation.

United Nations A/69/192*

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 August 2014
English
Original: Russian

Sixty-ninth session

# Request for the inclusion of a supplementary sub-item in the agenda of the sixty-ninth session

## No first placement of weapons in outer space

### Note verbale dated 12 August 2014 from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, pursuant to rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, has the honour to request the inclusion of a supplementary sub-item, entitled "No first placement of weapons in outer space", under the item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" in the agenda of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum (see annex I) and a draft resolution (see annex II) on this subject are annexed hereto.

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation also has the honour to request that the present letter and its annexes be circulated as a document of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 12 September 2014.

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# Annex I

[Original: English]

## Explanatory memorandum

The Outer Space Treaty (1967) recognizes that the use and exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes is in the common interest of mankind. The Treaty establishes that space activities must be developed in conformity with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, aiming at the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of cooperation and mutual understanding.

While the Outer Space Treaty prohibits the deployment of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in outer space, the Treaty alone is not sufficient to fully regulate the issue, since it does not explicitly cover either conventional weapons or new technological advances.

Bearing in mind the wide range of possibilities offered by the use of outer space for the promotion of international social and economic development, there is, therefore, a legitimate concern with the possible placement of weapons in outer space.

The prevention of an arms race in outer space has been on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament since 1985. In this regard, China and the Russian Federation jointly introduced in 2008 a proposal on a treaty for the consideration by the States members of the Conference on Disarmament (prohibition on the placement of weapons in outer space).

In the traditional preambular paragraphs of resolutions on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, the General Assembly has recognized that negotiations for the conclusion of an international agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space remain a priority task of the Conference on Disarmament and makes a special reference to "the introduction by China and the Russian Federation at the Conference" of the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space.

On 10 June 2014, an updated version of the treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space was submitted, reflecting proposals made by interested States, thus giving an additional impulse to further work on that draft treaty.

Taking into account the stalemate that hampers progress on the adoption of a programme of work of the Conference on Disarmament, the issue remains unresolved.

On 5 October 2004, the Russian Federation, in its statement to the First Committee of the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, pledged that it would not be the first to place weapons of any kind in outer space and called upon all States to follow suit.

Since 2005, Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Brazil, Cuba, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka and Tajikistan have formally adhered to a "no first placement" policy.

General Assembly resolution 68/50 on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities and the final report of the relevant group of governmental experts, both of which were adopted by consensus, take note of the efforts made by those States that are pursuing the "no first placement" policy.

We believe that the broadest possible international adherence to this policy will greatly contribute to strengthening international peace and security. Thus, understanding the urgency of further effective steps in this regard, we propose a draft resolution entitled "No first placement of weapons in outer space" for consideration of the First Committee.

We believe that adoption of a resolution on "No first placement of weapons in outer space" would contribute to the globalization of the "no first placement" initiative, making it a truly universal political commitment.

The initiative itself could be seen as an interim step on the road to a legally binding instrument that would promote the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and strengthen security and predictability of outer space activities by preventing placement of weapons of any kind in outer space.

## Annex II

[Original: English]

### Draft resolution

### No first placement of weapons in outer space

*The General Assembly*,

*Recognizing* the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

*Seriously concerned* about the possibility of an arms race in outer space, and bearing in mind the importance of articles III and IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies of 27 January 1967,

*Conscious* that the prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger to international peace and security,

*Reaffirming* that further measures should be examined in the search for agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space,

*Also reaffirming* its recognition that the legal regime applicable to outer space by itself does not guarantee prevention of an arms race in outer space and that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime,

*Noting*, in this regard, the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects, introduced by the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation at the Conference on Disarmament,[1]

*Considering* that transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities are an integral part of the draft treaty mentioned,

*Recalling* its previous resolutions, including resolutions 45/55B of 4 December 1990 and 48/74B of 16 December 1993, which, inter alia, confirm the importance of transparency and confidence-building measures as a means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

*Noting* the importance of political statements made by a number of States not to be the first to place weapons in outer space,[2]

1. *Reaffirms* the importance and urgency of the objective to prevent an arms race in outer space and the willingness of States to contribute to reaching this common goal;

2. *Reiterates* that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement, or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer

[1] See CD/1985.

[2] Armenia, Belarus, Brazil, Cuba, Indonesia, Russia and Sri Lanka.

space in all its aspects, and stresses that, while such agreements are not concluded, other measures may contribute to ensure that weapons are not placed in outer space;

3. *Urges* all States, especially space-faring nations, to consider the possibility of upholding a political obligation not to be the first to place weapons in outer space and making an appropriate public announcement;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "No first placement of weapons in outer space".

United Nations A/69/193

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 August 2014

Original: English

Sixty-ninth session

# Request for the inclusion of a supplementary sub-item in the agenda of the sixty-ninth session

## Appointment of ad litem judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal

### Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General has received notification by a letter dated 6 January 2014 from Judge Jean-François Cousin, ad litem judge of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal in Geneva, of his resignation effective 1 April 2014.

2. In the report of the Secretary-General on the administration of justice at the United Nations (A/69/227), it is recommended, for reasons set out in the report, that the terms of the three ad litem judge positions, including those of the sitting ad litem judges, be extended for one year, from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015.

3. The General Assembly will, therefore, during its sixty-ninth session, need to take action to extend the terms of the three ad litem judge positions, including those of the sitting ad litem judges, Alessandra Greceanu and Nkemdilim Amelia Izuako, from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015. The Assembly will also need to conduct an election for the appointment of the third ad litem judge, for the period from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015, on the basis of the recommendations contained in the report of the Internal Justice Council (A/69/205).

4. Accordingly, the Secretary-General has the honour to request, pursuant to rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the draft agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments", of a sub-item entitled "Appointment of ad litem judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal".

5. Owing to the nature of the sub-item, the Secretary-General also requests that it be considered directly in plenary meeting.

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